

From the Southern Nevada Water Authority

Due to the ongoing drought and shortages on the Colorado River - the federal government today announced a tier two water reduction. What does that mean for us here in Las Vegas? It will further limit the amount of water Southern Nevada gets from Lake Mead beginning in January.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority says our allocation from Lake Mead of 300,000 acre-feet will drop by 25,000 acre-feet, or about 8.1 billion gallons. Arizona's allocation of Colorado River water will be cut by 592,000 acre-feet, and Mexico will see its allocation cut by 104,000 acre-feet.

Although the reductions are considerable, Southern Nevada remains in a position to absorb them as the community's water conservation measures over the last two decades have reduced consumption by 26%. In 2021, Southern Nevada's water use last year was 242,000 acre feet, and well below the new threshold of 275,000 acre feet. In addition to the tier two shortage, the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) has requested the 7 Colorado River States develop plans by mid-August to reduce water use by up to 4 million acre-feet of water next year.

Southern Nevadans can continue achieving community-wide conservation goals by complying with mandatory seasonal water restrictions to reduce outdoor water consumption - which accounts for about 60% of Southern Nevada's overall water use. Replacing nonfunctional grass with drip-irrigated trees and plants through the SNWA's Water Smart Landscapes rebate program (WSL), and preventing and reporting water waste (water flowing off a property into the gutter) to local water utilities, are important ways residents and businesses can conserve water.